

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Jan. 6, 2025



Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of natural resources management, poses with the 2024 Fellow Award, the top honor provided by the National Association of Interpretation.

## Smartt earns top National Assoc. for Interpretation honor

Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of natural resources management in the College of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, was the winner of a top national award, the 2024 Fellow Award from the National Association for Interpretation.

The announcement came at the NAI's annual conference Dec. 3-6 in St. Augustine, Florida.

The Fellow Award is the highest honor

given by the National Association for Interpretation. Only one Fellow Award is given each year to its national membership.

Smartt was unable to attend the awards ceremony, but he did send them a video of acceptance for the award to play at the ceremony.

"Even now, it's still kind of surreal," he said. "Dr. (Todd) Winters (the dean of the College of Agriculture, Geoscience and

Natural Resources) posted it (Jan. 2) through the college and a lot of people responded. I thought it's kind of neat. Some folks were saying some nice things."

Smartt said some of the things the Fellow Award committee considers are long-term service to the NAI and being active at different levels.

The full media release will be posted this week at [news.utm.edu](https://news.utm.edu).

# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

**Dr. Mahmoud Haddad** and **Dr. Nell Gullett**, both professors of finance, published an article entitled “Student Portfolio Management and the TVA Investment Challenge” in the Journal of Student Managed Investment Funds (Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 106-112).

The paper delineates the collaboration between the UT Martin student-managed investment program and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The TVA Investment

Challenge Program provides students at 27 universities the opportunity to manage a real portfolio for a real client: TVA.

The program was created by TVA in 1998 to promote economic development within their service area.

In addition to financial support from TVA, FirstBank endowed the UTM program with 12 Bloomberg professional terminals that students use to obtain financial data



Haddad



Gullett

**Dr. Jamye Long** and **Dr. Cooper Johnson**, both professors of management, led a training for Go Cloud Careers titled “Executive Excellence: Collaboration and Cohesion through Classic Teamwork.”

The discussion explored topics such as understanding the purpose, functions and importance of workplace teams as well as the skills and value

of being a successful team member, characteristics of top team members, the steps to be a successful team member, how to recognize bad team players and how to deal with a bad teammate.

The training is a part of the Go Cloud Careers professional executive model in which participants elevate their careers in top leadership positions.



Long



Johnson

## DASH workshops to be held this week

The Cloud-based Oracle system that experiences quarterly release updates throughout the year known as DASH began operation across the UT System on Jan. 6.

DASH stands for Dynamic Administrative Systems HigherEd and replaces IRIS with a state-of-the-art Cloud platform.

This new enterprise resource planning (ERP) platform will be a single system to house and streamline all of the University of Tennessee’s needs for modern finance, human resources and payroll technology.

To help people learn and

understand the new DASH system, the Office of Human Resources is hosting several workshops this week at Room 212 Gooch Hall.

The schedule of workshops is:

- Tuesday, Jan. 7: 2-4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 8: 9-11 a.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 9: 2-4 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 10: 9-11 a.m.

A workshop was held the morning of Jan. 6.

At these support sessions, participants are encouraged to ask questions of the human resources and finance and administration staff.

## Non-degree courses offered

The Office of University Outreach offers non-degree online courses for a variety of interests, hobbies or topics.

Here are a few course highlights for the month of January.

- Keys to Effective Communication: Become more confident, make great first impressions, and create better relationships. This is a six-week course for 24 course hours. This class is currently enrolling.

- Fundamentals of Supervision and Management: Learn the people skills required to motivate, delegate, solve problems and resolve conflicts. This is a six-week course for 24 course hours. This class is currently enrolling.

- Leadership: Learn how to use the principles of great leaders to achieve success in your professional and personal life. This is a six-week course for 24 course hours. This class is

currently enrolling.

- Accounting Fundamentals: Learn the basics of double-entry bookkeeping and how to analyze and record financial transactions. This is a six-week course for 24 course hours. This class is currently enrolling.

- Introduction for Interior Design: Unleash your creativity with interior design fundamentals. Discover the art of transforming spaces and turn your passion into a design career. This is a six-week course for 24 course hours. This class is currently enrolling.

- QuickBooks Online Series: Learn to use QuickBooks Online to record income and expenses, track payables and inventory, and much more. This class offers 48 course hours and is currently enrolling.

For more information about non-degree courses, call the Office of University Outreach at 731-881-7082.



(Left photo) Attending the graduation event from the university were (l-r) Dr. Jamie Mantooth, the university's executive director for strategic leadership and WestTeach coordinator; Jahnae Johnson, WestStar program manager; Jennifer Smiley, WestStar assistant director; and UT Martin Chief of Staff and WestStar Executive Director Jake Bynum. (Bottom left) Chancellor Yancy Freeman welcomed the group and talked about the importance of WestTeach and the teachers who participate. (Bottom right) State Rep. Mark White (R-District 83) of Memphis was WestTeach graduation's featured speaker.



## WestTeach program graduates sixth class

The UT Martin WestTeach program held its Class of 2024 ceremony Dec. 17 with 23 members in this year's class.

This is the sixth WestTeach class for the program, which held a reception and dinner in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center.

State Rep. Mark White (R-District 83) of Memphis was the evening's featured speaker.

Dyer County High School teacher Mary Greer was also named by fellow class members during the event to receive the first Virginia Grimes WestTeach Leadership Award as the outstanding 2024 class member.

WestTeach was created as a class project by the 2017 WestStar Leadership class to support teacher development. A new class is selected annually by the program's advisory council following nominations by

school superintendents and directors. West Tennessee teachers selected for the program learn about the region's economic needs and opportunities.

Each class also meets with regional industry and community leaders to learn more about what students might experience outside the classroom, in the workplace and beyond.

This year's class brings the total to 111 teachers who have completed the program since it began.

As she was introduced during the graduation ceremony, Humboldt High School teacher Chandra Maclin was acknowledged as WestTeach's 100th graduate.

The 23-member class represented 14 West Tennessee counties and met through the fall in four daylong sessions starting in August.

Class members included educators who teach pre-kindergarten to 12th grade, with teaching experience ranging from one to more than 20 years.

Teaching specialties among class members covered subjects from computer science, math and reading to marketing and media.

In addition to WestTeach classmates, family members and friends, among those attending the event were **Chancellor Yancy Freeman**, Chief of Staff and WestStar Executive Director **Jake Bynum**, WestStar Assistant Director **Jennifer Smiley**, WestStar Program Manager **Jahnae Johnson** and **Dr. Jamie Mantooth**, the university's executive director for strategic leadership and WestTeach coordinator.

Learn more about WestTeach at [www.utm.edu/westteach](http://www.utm.edu/westteach) or by calling 731-881-7298.



UT Martin's Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity chapter received its fourth Maynard H. Coe Chapter Efficiency Award during the fraternity's biennial national convention Aug. 1-3 in Sacramento, California. Pictured at the convention during award presentations are (l-r): Dr. Todd Winters, AGR chapter advisor; Jackson Hughes, junior, agricultural business, Columbia; Macon Barrow, senior, agricultural engineering technology, Auburn, Kentucky; Rex Martin, Alpha Gamma Rho CEO; Jerrie Anne Conley, AGR housemother, Martin; Houston Batey, senior, agriculture, Milton; Riley Qualls, sophomore, agriculture, Cornersville; and Russ Bragg, chapter alumni advisor, Martin.

## Alpha Gamma Rho earns top chapter award

Earning top chapter awards is familiar territory for the brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at UT Martin.

AGR earned its fourth Maynard H. Coe Chapter Efficiency Award during the fraternity's biennial national convention Aug. 1-3 in Sacramento, California.

The award recognizes chapters that have consistently maintained the highest level of operations during the past two years.

The Maynard H. Coe Award is one of two biennial awards presented by the fraternity, while all other chapter awards are presented annually.

The UT Martin chapter previously earned the Maynard Coe award in 1996-98, 2000-02, 2002-04 and was runner-up for the honor in 1998-2000.

The chapter received its charter April 20, 1963, and currently has 58 active members.

"Just knowing that the hard work that we've put in, into what we do as a chapter - what makes us different - it means a lot to be recognized nationally for that," said Macon Barrow, AGR noble ruler (chapter president). Barrow is a senior studying agricultural engineering technology from Auburn, Kentucky, and is in his second year leading the chapter.

Alpha Gamma Rho also secured annual chapter and individual awards at the convention, including recognition for

alumni engagement, communications, outstanding housemother - social and cultural development, and outstanding chapter alumni advisor.

Mom (Jerrie) Conley has served as AGR housemother since 2011, and Russ Bragg, a 2002 UTM agriculture graduate, has served as chapter alumni advisor for two years.

In other convention news, **Dr. Todd Winters**, dean and professor of animal science, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and AGR chapter advisor, was elected to the AGR national board of directors during the convention for a six-year term. He was initiated in 1980 by the Washington State University AGR chapter.

The chapter has enjoyed consistent success through the years, but Barrow points to AGR's beginnings for establishing high expectations for past, current and future members.

"It's a lot of things, I'd say, but we were founded on the principle that we wanted to be different than everybody else," Barrow said. "We wanted to do things different, present ourselves in a social and professional manner, and I think that's something that we strive to do through the various things that we involve ourselves with."

Barrow will receive his undergraduate degree in May and will return home to

pursue a career in land surveying and work on his family's beef-cattle farm.

In addition to his degree, he will leave college with valuable leadership skills and a sense of accomplishment being associated with one of the country's best AGR chapters.

"I've been the president of AGR for the past two years now, so I've done this twice, and I think just about every week presents itself with new challenges, to be honest with you," he said.

"... I think that's been the biggest thing for me, is just working with people and learning to get things done."

The complete list of chapter and individual awards announced during the convention included:

- Jerrie Conley, Housemother - Social and Cultural Development Award (highest honor).
- Continued Alumni Engagement Award (high honor - chapter).
- Russ Bragg, Outstanding Advisor Award (high honor - alumni).
- Macon Barrow, AGR Excellence Scholarship as one of the four top chapter members.
- Chapter Communications Award (high honor).
- Gold Chapter Award for exceeding expectations for chapter excellence.

# Faculty Development Grant Program presents spring 2025 awards

The following UT Martin faculty members were selected for spring 2025 awards for the Faculty Development Grant Program.

• **Dr. Verna Baron**, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics, was awarded \$1,500 in the conference participation category. Her project titled “Undergraduate Student Participation in the American Chemical Society Spring 2025 Meeting” requested funding

to assist with the expenses of travel for Baron and two undergraduate students in the Baron Research Group to present their research work.

• **Dr. Jessica Beckham**, assistant professor in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication, received a \$1,500 award in the conference participation category. Funding will support Beckham’s attendance and active participation at the Southern States Communication

Association Conference, where she will present research, lead multiple sessions and represent UT Martin in a leadership capacity.

• **Dr. Kristi Gatto**, assistant professor in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication, received a \$1,182 award for her project “Where We Are: Exploring Tactile Usage in Immersive Environments” in the research category. Funds will be used for travel to the research location

to investigate how tactility is designed into an attraction experience and the utilization of these features by park guests.

• **Dr. Carrie Humphreys**, associate professor of political science, received a \$1,500 award in the conference participation category. Humphreys will present at the American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference on the paper “Strong Foundations: A Holistic Approach to Political Science Career Preparation,” co-authored by **Dr. Adnan Rasool**, associate professor of political science.

• **Dr. Ben Le**, associate professor in the Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance, and Political Science, received a \$1,175 award in the conference participation category. Le will present his paper titled “The Impact of Financial Reporting Quality on Foreign Investment and the

**Continued on PAGE 6**



Baron



Beckham



Gatto



Humphreys



Le



McCormick



Rowland



Smith



West



Whitt



Wilson

## Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

### Thursday, Jan. 16

- \*Women's basketball vs. Eastern Illinois, 5:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- \*Men's basketball vs. Eastern Illinois, 7:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

### Saturday, Jan. 18

- Rifle vs. UAB, all day, Skyhawk Rifle Range.
- \*Women's basketball vs. SIUE, 1 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- \*Men's basketball vs. SIUE, 3:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- \* - conference competition
- Full athletics schedules can be found at [utmsports.com](http://utmsports.com).
- Watch "Skyhawk Sports Talk" each week, archived at [utmsports.com](http://utmsports.com)! New episodes are posted each Monday.



### GRANT from PAGE 6

Moderating Role of Economic Liberalization" at the American Accounting Researchers and Educators Conference in May.

- **Sarah McCormick**, professor in the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, received a \$1,270 award for her project "Dance Inspiration: American College Dance Association Southeast Conference" in the professional development category. Funds will be used for travel expenses to the conference, which will allow McCormick to develop teaching and instructional improvements, attend conference classes and/or sessions for inspiration and share new dance ideas with dance professionals.
- **Dr. Aaron Rowland**, associate professor of sociology, received a \$2,000 award in the creative activity category. Funds will support travel

necessary to access primary source materials at the Hagley Museum and Library. That research will directly contribute to a journal article and eventual book manuscript on the rise of neoliberalism in America.

- **Dr. Timothy B. Smith**, lecturer of history, received a \$2,000 award in the creative activity category. Funds will be used for travel expenses to conduct research for his project entitled "Bonaparte's Long Shadow: A Comparison of Napoleonic and Civil War Operations."
- **Dr. Richard West**, professor and chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance, received a \$1,500 award in the conference participation category. Funds will be used for travel to the 2025 National Association of Kinesiologists in Higher Education National Conference for two presentations: "So,

What Is It...That You Do Here? Kinesiology Program Assessment for the Layperson" and "Start Off on the Right Foot? But Which One?"

- **Bridgette Whitt**, assistant professor in the Paul Meek Library, received a \$1,500 award in the conference participation category. Funding will support travel to the American Library Association LibLearnX 2025 National Conference this month for an oral presentation titled "Creating an Inclusive Library Workforce: Practical Steps for Disability Inclusion."
- **Dr. Alisa Wilson**, assistant professor of educational studies, received a \$1,454 award in the conference participation category. Funding will support Wilson's attendance at the Hawai'i International Conference on Education this month, where she will co-present two workshops.

Submit a YoUTM or question to [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu)!

## You Tell Me

• **Question** – The lights in the quad and near residence halls are a great feature of the main campus and contribute to campus safety. Where should non-working lights be reported?

• **Answer** – Any non-functioning campus lights should be reported to the Office of Physical Plant Operations. Typically, the Department of Public Safety or the Office of Housing makes these notifications since both areas have staff on duty after hours. However, anyone can report non-working campus lights at [fixit@utm.edu](mailto:fixit@utm.edu) or call the Physical Plant at 7640. The current lamps were the result of a \$3.2 million campus lighting project that was celebrated April 17, 2012. An "Illumination Celebration" featured Chancellor Tom Rakes, UT President Joe DiPietro and SGA President Alex Wilson "flipping the switch" using laptops to power on the new lights for the first time.

Submit your questions to Addenda at [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu).

## addenda

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